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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 14, 15, 16, and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A latch communications system, comprising:

a host computer and a wireless network;

a communications receiver and transmitter unit associated with a latch, wherein said communications receiver and transmitter unit comprises a wireless communications component for communicating with said host computer via said wireless network;

an interface component for interfacing with said communications receiver and transmitter unit, wherein said interface component is co-located with said communications receiver and transmitter unit in association with said latch;

an interpreter associated with said interface component and said communications and transmitter unit, wherein said interpreter processes information received from said communications receiver and transmitter unit in order to provide latch diagnostics and functionalities.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said ~~communications receiver and transmitter unit comprises a~~ wireless network comprises communications component for wirelessly communicating with a host computer at least one of the following types of wireless networks: a personal area network, a GSM network, a GPRS network, a CDMA network, a paging network, a TDMA network, a CDPD network, a WIN network, an 802.11 network, or a wireless communications protocol network.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 2 wherein said wireless communications component includes an antenna and associated wireless communications circuitry for receiving and transmitting data per a desired frequency.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said communications receiver and transmitter unit further comprises a direct wire connection for communicating data to and from said interpreter.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein said direct wire connection comprises a voltage level shifter for transforming voltage levels for communication with said interface component.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said interface component comprises a Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (UART) which can receive and transmit data serially from said communications receiver and transmitter unit and receive and transmit data in parallel with said interpreter.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein said UART comprises a hardware component separate from said interpreter.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein said UART is integrated with said interpreter.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said interpreter comprises a microprocessor that processes data received from said UART.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said interpreter comprises a logic array that performs a particular function based on particular data received from said UART.

11. (Currently Amended) A latch communications system, comprising:

a communications receiver and transmitter unit associated with a latch;

an interface component for interfacing with said communications receiver and transmitter unit, wherein said interface component is co-located with said communications receiver and transmitter unit in association with said latch;

an interpreter associated with said interface component and said communications and transmitter unit, wherein said interpreter processes information received from said communications receiver and transmitter unit in order to provide latch diagnostics and functionalities, wherein said interpreter comprises a logic array that performs a particular function based on particular data received from said interface component; and

a wireless communications component for wirelessly communicating data between said communications receiver and transmitter unit and a host computer via a wireless network.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said interface component comprises a Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (UART) which can receive and transmit data serially from said communications receiver and transmitter unit and receive and transmit data in parallel with said interpreter.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said latch comprises a vehicle door latch.

14. (Currently Amended) A latch communications method, comprising the steps of:

providing a host computer and a wireless network;

associating a communications receiver and transmitter unit with a latch,
wherein said communications receiver and transmitter unit comprises a wireless communications component for communicating with said host computer via said wireless network;

establishing an interface component for interfacing with said communications receiver and transmitter unit, wherein said interface component is co-located with said communications receiver and transmitter unit in association with said latch;
and

associating an interpreter with said interface component and said communications and transmitter unit, wherein said interpreter processes information received from said communications receiver and transmitter unit in order to provide latch diagnostics and functionalities.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of configuring said ~~communications receiver and transmitter unit to comprise a wireless network communications component for wirelessly communicating with a host computer to~~ comprise at least one of the following types of wireless networks: a personal area network, a GSM network, a GPRS network, a CDMA network, a paging network, a TDMA network, a CDPD network, a WIN network, an 802.11 network, or a wireless communications protocol network.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 15 further comprising the step of configuring said wireless communications component to include an antenna and associated wireless communications circuitry for receiving and transmitting data per a desired frequency.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein further comprising the step of configuring said communications receiver and transmitter unit to further comprise a direct wire connection for communicating data to and from said interpreter.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of configuring said direct wire connection to comprise a voltage level shifter for transforming voltage levels for communication with said interface component.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of configuring said interface component to comprise a Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (UART) which can receive and transmit data serially from said communications receiver and transmitter unit and receive and transmit data in parallel with said interpreter.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of embedding said interpreter, said UART, and said communications receiver and transmitter unit within said latch, wherein said comprises a vehicle door latch.